MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (*a*) The member is referred to Appendix XV of the Administration Report of the Excise Department for the several years.

(*b*) The average annual income during the last 5 years under 'recoveries' is Rs. 5,476.

(2) The decrease in the output is reported to be due to the neglect of the factory by its licensees who are disunited among themselves and cannot take concerted action for the improvement of the factory.

Arrears due from Salt Licensees.

12. MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): (1) Will the Government be pleased to pl[illegible]on the table a statement showing the arrears of salt due to Governm[illegible]t from the licensees of the several factories in Tamaracolam up to the [illegible]nd of 1101?

(2) Are the Government aware that the Excise Commissioner has permitted the licensee of the Cape Comorin Company Allom and some licensees of Avadhanial's factory to sell the salt manufactured during the two working seasons of the current year (1102) without demanding the respective arrears due from them?

(3) What is the money value (value of recoveries), in the case of the above-said two factories, of the arrears of salt due to Government?

(4) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Excise Commissioner is competent to excuse payment of the arrears of salt due from the licensees of the Company Allom and Avadhanial's Allom or to allow the arrears to accumulate?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*):

	Maunds.
(1) Avadhanial's Factory	85,910
Cape Comorin General Traffic Co.	1,14,772
Sri Mulagopalanathan Allom	94,469
Sri Mulakrishnamony Allom	62,339
Sri Sankara Allom	15,000
Dr. Sankaramurthi Pillai's Allom	2,298
Kumari Allom	3,954
Total	3,78,742

(2) The Cape Comorin General Traffic Company and some of the licensees of Avadhanial's factory were permitted to sell a portion of the salt manufactured by them during Purattasi *pani* and Tai *pani* 1102, as they were in financial difficulties consequent on the floods of 1101. It was found necessary in the interests of the salt industry to render such relief.

(3) Bh. Rs. 52,310 and annas 4.

(4) No gifts of the arrears due from the licensees were made to them by the Excise Commissioner but an *extension of time* for the payment of the arrears was alone allowed as ordered by the Government on the applications of these and other licensees for remissio n.

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MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Am I to understand that in the statement of arrears due from the several factories, credit has been given to the salt delivered to the Government in the course of this year ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : The statement gives the arrears pending at the close of 1101.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : Am I to understand that credit has been given to the quantity of salt delivered to the Government during the course of this year ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : May be.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : The statement gives the arrears due from the licensees. But a certain quantity of salt has been delivered to the Government towards these arrears in the course of this year. That does not seem to have been given credit to.

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Information in regard to that has not been called for.

Remission of Salt.

13. MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): (1) Is it a fact that the Excise Commissioner recommended to the Government that the licensees in distressed circumstances should be given relief in the shape of remission of salt ?

(2) Is it a fact that a recommendation to this effect was made in respect of Avadhanial's factory during any of the last three years ?

(3) Will the Government be pleased to extend such concessions to all Government contractors in distressed circumstances ?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (1), (2) and (3) All recommendations made to the Government by heads of departments are intended for the Government alone and cannot ordinarily be made public.

Transport of Home Salt.

14. MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) : (1) Are the Government aware that the contractor for the transport of home salt from Tamaracolam has refused to transport the Government salt fixed for transport from Sri Sankara Allom ?

(2) Will the Government be pleased to state why the contractor refused to transport the salt and what was done with the salt ?

MR. P N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : (1) and (2). As a portion of the salt fixed for transport from the Sri Sankara Allom was found to be somewhat powdery and moist, the contractor, fearing undue wastage, requested the Excise authorities that salt from some other factory might be delivered to him for transport. The permission was accordingly granted. The licensee was ordered to dispose of the salt himself and deliver to the Government good salt in lieu thereof.

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